

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


(DR. D. S. PARK)

For the Year ending 31st December,
1910.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING :

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of submitting for your consideration and acceptance, my Annual Report dealing with the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year 1910.

Appended to my report are the various tables of the Local Government Board, numbered respectively, I., II., III., IV. and V.

The following particulars will simplify and facilitate matters:

Table I. gives the vital statistics of the whole district during the year.

Table II. refers to sub-districts or parishes of known population, and does not apply to this district which is a district in itself and not made up of parishes of known population. The births are simply given without reference to the parishes in which they take place.

Table III. gives the Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Table IV. gives the causes of and ages at death during the year.

Table V. deals with the Infant Mortality during the year. In order to complete this table I had to apply to the Registrar of Births for the number of illegitimate children registered during the year.

For furnishing this information he is entitled to reasonable remuneration.

By referring to Table I. we shall find that 194 deaths have been registered during the year, but in estimating the mortality, it is necessary to carry out the instructions of the Local Government Board. Fourteen deaths occurred to non-residents, or those persons brought into the district on account of sickness or other causes, and dying in public institutions there, and three to residents or those persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or other causes and have died in public institutions elsewhere. So that after making the necessary corrections, the total number of deaths upon which our mortality must be based becomes reduced to 183.

Death-rate.—By estimating the population at the middle of the year as required by the Local Government Board, at 10,250, this is equivalent to a death-rate of 17.8 per 1,000 per annum, and an Infant Mortality of 42.6 per cent.

The rate per 1,000 births registered 160.5.

Births.—The births for the year number 299, representing a birth-rate of 29.1 per 1,000 per annum, and a natural gain to the population of 116.

The following table gives the births—male and female—including birth-rate for the past four years:

Year	Births	Males	Females	Rate	Increase
1907	346	175	171	36·7	192
1908	366	192	174	37·6	175
1909	383	213	170	39·8	256
1910	299	147	152	29·1	116

Death-rate per 1000 registered births, 160·5.

The subjoined table gives the death-rate per 1000 from the principal Zymotic diseases during the past three years:—

No.	Diseases	1908.	1909.	1910.
1	Small-pox	0	0	0
2	Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
3	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	·20	·3	·09
4	Typhoid and Continued Fever	·51	·2	·09
5	Measles	0	·5	·0
6	Whooping Cough	·20	·2	·02
7	Diarrhœa, Dysentery and Enteritis... ..	1·54	·1	·02
8	Phthisis	1·13	1·1	·8
9	Acute Diseases of the Lungs	4·21	2·1	3·9
10	Other Tubercular Diseases	·51	·8	·4

New Cases of Sickness.—The Infectious Disease Notification Act was adopted by your Council on February 1st, 1890.

In order to derive the full benefits of the above act I make it my invariable practice to visit and inspect the premises and out offices occupied by the patients with as little delay as possible after securing the Notification Forms, and to give such instructions as to isolation and disinfection as the nature and circumstances of the illness may require.

We are a mining population with a relatively high birth-rate and as our houses are chiefly of the cottage property class, home isolation, as a rule, is a physical impossibility.

Indeed in many cases the resources of the householder are often seriously taxed in order to provide sleeping accommodation for the family with a proper regard for the separation of the sexes.

In the interests of the community at large, therefore, it is most desirable that all suitable infectious cases should be treated in the Isolation Hospital, and that no unnecessary delay should take place in their removal thereto.

When allowed to remain at home, even for a few days after the illness is recognised, the danger of the infection spreading to other members of the family is both real and great.

The sooner the patients are removed the sooner will it be possible to have the premises and out offices and all contaminated articles cleansed, and disinfected, and this is a matter of the first importance. As I have frequently remarked, no subsequent cases have occurred at the patients' homes since the erection of the hospital, when this precaution has been observed. On the other hand, when cases are retained at home, subsequent cases are the rule and not the exception.

Disinfectants.—These are supplied free of charge and your Inspector himself frequently superintends their use.

Portable Disinfecting Apparatus.—The apparatus is taken to patients' homes free of charge and is used on all possible occasions when the consent of the householder can be obtained. In all cases removed to the hospital, we insist upon this form of disinfection, as the bed and bedding cannot possibly be properly disinfected at home by the ordinary home methods.

Only in one instance has this practice not been carried out, and singular to say, a subsequent case of typhoid fever occurred in the same family about twenty days after the first case had been removed to hospital. The mother objected to have the bed and bedding disinfected in the portable disinfecting apparatus as she was afraid of having her things destroyed.

Infectious Sickness.—85 cases in all have been notified during the year, viz. :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	20
Erysipelas	... ..	6
Scarlet Fever	... ..	54
Typhoid Fever	... ..	5

as compared with 61 for the previous years, viz :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	14
Erysipelas	... ..	13
Scarlet Fever	... ..	12
Typhoid Fever	... ..	22
		<hr/>
		61

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—The following is a list of the cases notified during the year, with particulars as to the insanitary conditions found on my rounds of inspection:

- Jan. 1.—Male, 4 years, 107, Sunderland Street; milk from Nesham.
- „ 18.—Male, 9 months, Nesham Hall Yard; child on breast.
- March 7.—Male, 5 years, 7 Henry Street; removed to hospital; milk from Oliver.
- „ 27.—Male, 9 years, 13, Prospect Road; removed to hospital; milk from Todd.
- April 12.—Female, 4 years, The Folds; removed to hospital; condensed milk.
- „ 26.—Male, 22 months, 15, William Street; milk from Hall. White House Farm; privy full and offensive.
- May 7.—Male, 6 years, 5, Abbott Street; removed to hospital; condensed milk.
- June 4.—Female, 8 years, 13, Halliwell Terrace; milk Newbottle Store.
- Sept. 20.—Female, 9 years, 25, Mount Pleasant; removed to hospital; privy and yard drain offensive; milk from Metcalfe.
- „ 22.—Female, 5 years, 2, Pottery Yard; house damp, milk from Ronaldson.
- „ 23.—Male, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, 2, Pottery Yard; house damp; milk from Ronaldson.
- Nov. 3.—Female, 6 years, 27, Lambton Street; milk Newbottle Store.
- „ 29.—Female, 3 years; 4, Abbott Street; ash pit neglected; removed to hospital; condensed milk.
- „ 29.—Female, 8 years, 3, Back Mount Pleasant Yard; smell and neglected ashpit defective with large quantity of offensive liquid; condensed milk.
- Dec. 22.—Male, 7 years, 7, Pottery Yard; removed to hospital, as suffering from Scarlet Fever; when examined on admission found to be suffering from diphtheria as well; up stair room damp; using condensed milk.
- „ 22.—Female, 3 years, 29 Quarry Row; removed to hospital; front room wall damp; street gully offensive; no milk used.
- „ 22.—Male, 7 years, 29 Lambton Street; removed to hospital; milk from Newbottle Store.
- „ 22.—Male 7 years, 25, Mount Pleasant; ash pit neglected; sink in yard offensive at times; using condensed milk.
- „ 30.—Male, 7 years, 64, Bowlby Street; milk from Metcalfe; yard drain choked up and very offensive.

I had no reason whatever to suspect milk contamination as the patients had derived their supply from different sources whilst not a few were using condensed milk.

The bacillus of diphtheria, gentlemen, is very hard to kill and may live outside the human body for months in a more or less dormant condition, and then spring into active life again, when it gets into a throat rendered less resistant by disease, such as Tonsillitis, Measles, Scarlet Fever, etc. Milk is one of the chief carriers of the disease, but, as experiments have shown, the bacillus dies in water after a few days. The water supply is not looked upon as one of the media through which it usually enters the body.

The aggregation of children at school, too, plays an important part in the spread of the disease. In some schools the children put their mouths to a common tap when they want a drink and borrow from each other pens and pencils, and not infrequently put them to their mouths. Sharing chewing gum with each other that has been in the mouth, and other acts of a like kind which children are apt to commit, are all contributory causes. The drilling of children in the open play ground in the raw winter months without any head gear on is liable to cause sore throat and thus predispose, as I have said, to the disease. As in the case of typhoid fever certain families are more susceptible than others to diphtheria. The month of November—when the weather is usually cold and raw is the time of year when epidemics reach their maximum. It is a filth disease, and as a Health Authority it is most important for us to know the insanitary conditions usually associated with the disease. The most important of which are—water-logged condition of the soil and dampness generally, want of proper drainage, improper or defective spouting, improper or defective footpaths and back streets and yards, defective channeling, defective scavenging and filthy conditions generally. Suspected cats should be destroyed as they often suffer from the disease in a chronic form—the chief symptoms of which are a chronic catarrh and a wasting of the body generally.

The only way to lessen the risks and safeguard the district from such outbreaks is to take active measures to put down all insanitary conditions, especially those enumerated above, and this can only be done by a regular and systematic inspection of the district and by rigidly keeping the scavenging contractors up to the conditions of their contracts.

It is one of the peculiarities of diphtheria that the most careful examination often fails to throw light on the source of the infection. In former times towns and crowded centres of population were the favourite haunts of the disease, but in these days it is as prevalent in rural districts as in crowded cities.

I am pleased, gentlemen, that on my recommendation you decided to supply Antitoxin free of charge to all poor persons requiring its use. This should have the effect of lessening the mortality from the disease, as the good results derived from an

early use of the Serum are beyond question. A circular letter was sent to the various medical practitioners in the district intimating the decision of your Council, but so far I have received no applications.

Scarlet Fever.—As will be observed from the following table, Scarlet Fever has been present in the district, more or less, during the year. This is not surprising, as the indiscriminate visiting at infected houses of which I have often had occasion to complain is still as common as ever. In some of the cases the mildness of the disease prevented the illness from being recognised until the peeling process had set in, with the result that the infection was conveyed to others. One of the cases removed to hospital had a distinct diphtheritic throat on the day of admission and was injected in the usual way. This is another instance of two acute diseases running a concurrent course in the same person.

Table of Scarlet Fever cases notified during 1910:—

January.—13, Bowlby Street, John Street, New Town, Long Row, Colliery Row; total	3
February.—Long Row, Colliery Row, The Fold; total	2
March.—Nesham Yard, Quarry Row, John Street, New Town, Bowlby Street, Halliwell Street, and Market Place; total	11
April.—Hole-in-Wall, Baker Street, D'Arcy Street, New Town, George Street, Quarry Row, Newbottle Street, Outram Street and Stanley Street	10
May.—Cross Street, George Street, Stanley Street, Sunderland Street, Market Place, Quarry Row, Winter Yard; total	9
June.—Quarry Row, George Street, Long Row, Colliery Row, Workhouse, Winter Yard, Copt Hill, Rythorpe Street, Market Place	8
July.—George Street, Swallowwell Terrace, Ironside Street ...	3
August.—Nesham Yard	1
September.—North View, Sunderland Street, Prospect Row, Bruces Yard	4
October.—Balfour Street	1
November.—Bruces Yard	1
December.—Lambton Street and Pottery Yard	2
Total	55

Typhoid Fever.—There has been a most gratifying decrease in the number of Typhoid Fever cases during the year, as compared with previous years. A brother of one of the patients, and living in the same house, was treated in the hospital for the same disease in September of the previous year. This is another

instance of the lurking nature of the disease. As I have repeatedly remarked, gentlemen, when once it breaks out in a house or street, subsequent cases are almost certain to occur close to the original cases. In the absence of all apparent insanitary conditions this clearly points to surface or ashpit contamination with the typhoid bacillus and the subsequent spread of the disease during the scavenging—especially of those conveniences which are close to the pantries and back doors.

The practice, therefore, of throwing the contents of the out-offices on to the ground in place of direct into the carts as is provided for by the conditions of the scavenging contracts, should be strictly prohibited in all cases where those conditions can be readily complied with.

In order to lessen, as much as possible, the risks of contamination of the out-offices with the evacuations of the patients, pails are provided at the earliest possible moment, and full instructions given as to their use and management; and the out-offices are cleansed and disinfected.

I am satisfied that these precautions have been attended with good results. The following list gives the date of notification and the insanitary conditions found on my rounds of inspection.

- Jan. 14.—Male, aged 17, Prospect Row; removed to hospital; was a case of pneumonia; notification withdrawn.
- Feb. 21.—Female, aged 9 years, 70, Long Row, Colliery Row; house damp; removed to hospital; condensed milk.
- April 12.—Female, 47 years, 21, Edwin Street; milk from Store; manhole in front of back door offensive.
- Oct. 26.—Female, 19 years, 2, Newbottle Row; removed to hospital; brother was ill of same disease in 1909; disinfecting apparatus not used; milk from Metcalfe.
- Nov. 13.—Female, 12 years; same house as above; milk from Metcalfe.
- Nov. 21.—Female 27 years, 16, Union Street; house and pantry damp; milk from Newbottle Store.

You will remember, gentlemen, that last year I made a report to your Council upon the unsatisfactory condition of the water supply to three dairy farms in the district.

From a careful inspection of the position and environment of the source of supply it was obvious that the water in each case was practically field drainage, and was, therefore, liable to specific contamination at any moment, and not a safe water for drinking purposes.

Six samples—two from each of the three farms—were analysed—with the result that my suspicions were fully confirmed. The owners were at once communicated with, and after satisfying themselves by chemical analysis and a careful

examination of the source of supply made on their behalf by their respective agents, they at once took steps to have a fresh supply provided.

Field House Farm.—This farm is now supplied with the town water.

White House Farm.—The field runner, which on examination was found to be contaminating the water from the spring in the field adjoining the farm, was at once cut off and the spring itself was carefully walled in and protected, so that the water now appears to be pure and satisfactory; although it has not been analysed since the alterations were made. The water in the kitchen, which was derived from the open pond at Copt Hill, and used for washing up purposes, has very properly been done away with.

Bradley's Farm.—Boring operations were made with a view of obtaining water on the spot, but as the water obtained was not satisfactory, the operations were at once discontinued. After going carefully into the matter your Surveyor satisfied himself that there was not sufficient pressure for the town water to reach the farm.

As there was no other source available the owners arranged with the Hetton Coal Company for a supply as formerly, from a tank at Copt Hill, which is brought up the line from Sunderland twice a week, or as often as occasion requires for the use of the cottages occupied by their workmen.

This arrangement is satisfactory so far as it goes, but the water ought to be conveyed to the farm in a water barrel instead of by water cans as at present.

In the winter time, when the roads are blocked up with snow, it would be impossible to carry sufficient water by hand for the use of the farm. The water carted from the open pond at Copt Hill for washing up purposes and for the use of the cattle should be discontinued as it is highly improper to use contaminated water on a dairy farm even for washing up purposes.

Cholera and Small Pox.—We have enjoyed a complete immunity from these diseases for a long number of years.

Erysipelas.—Only 5 cases of erysipelas have been notified during the year. Two of the patients had previously suffered from the disease. My rounds of inspection revealed no insanitary conditions.

Chicken Pox.—Only a few cases of Chicken Pox have come under my observation during the year. They were all of the ordinary type and in no instance was the diagnosis ever in question.

Measles.—Only a few cases of Measles have come under my observation during the year, and so far as I am aware the school attendance was in no way affected.

Whooping Cough and Mumps were very prevalent in June and July among the children attending the infant schools. I communicated with the County Medical Officer, with the result that the schools were disinfected and cleansed during the summer holidays.

Summer Diarrhœa.—Diarrhœa has been nothing like so prevalent during the past year as in many previous years. This, no doubt, was due to the lack of sunshine and warm weather. Although satisfied that a liberal supply of dry ashes added to the conveniences each time they are used would do much to allay the unpleasantness arising from the close proximity of the out-offices to the pantries and back doors, many of the occupiers are too indifferent to their surroundings to take the trouble to give effect to the recommendations of your Medical Officer. When the privy ashpits have been remodelled the unpleasantness above referred to will largely disappear, with the result that there will be a proportionate decline in the sickness from diarrhœa, enteritis, etc.

Pneumonia and other Chest Affections.—I have only the old reasons to assign for our somewhat high mortality from the above diseases, namely, the prevailing North-East winds during the winter and early spring—the taking of infants and young children out of doors late at night and in all conditions of weather.

It is no uncommon thing to see children running about at night as well as in the day time, in their bare feet and only very scantily clothed. In mining districts such as ours the night shift men are exposed to those sudden changes in the weather which to persons of debilitated constitution are liable to predispose to such diseases. As I have frequently remarked, our houses, as a rule, are substantially built and are provided with through ventilation and a proper system of drainage, so that they cannot be looked upon as contributory causes.

Tuberculosis.—Your Council have done nothing more with respect of providing accommodation for tuberculous cases.

The question of securing a bed in the Stanhope Sanatorium is still under consideration. Meanwhile, cases reported to your Council are to be dealt with as they arise. In the month of August a case was reported by the District Medical Officer.

At first the patient consented to go to the Stanhope Sanatorium, but while arrangements were being made for her removal she declined to go. The case ran a rapid course, and after death the bed and bedding were thoroughly disinfected and the house fumigated with sulphur.

Influenza.—Influenza has been prevalent in the district more or less during the year, but in a much milder form, and the complications have been less frequent and severe than formerly. Icy cold winds, as I have frequently remarked, invariably determine an outbreak of the disease.

Ringworm.—A few cases of ringworm were brought to my knowledge during the year and had to be excluded from school.

Hospital Accommodation.—We have a Conjoint Small Pox Hospital for the use of the whole Union. Happily, no cases have been notified since its erection. Our own hospital is built of stone, and consists of four wards with accommodation for eleven beds. The hospital is very popular with the people, as the number of cases treated during the year will show. All the patients and their friends speak of it in the highest terms.

Milk.—Samples of milk are taken from time to time by the representatives of the County Council, and so far as I know, with satisfactory results. A portion of our supply is derived from dairies outside the district. Both as regards quantity and quality every thing may be considered satisfactory.

Meat.—Our meat is generally of good quality and is usually home fed. Every assistance is given to your Inspector and Medical Officer of Health when on their rounds of inspection.

Slaughtering, I regret to say, is still done in many of the shops. This is very objectionable and has a demoralizing effect and should not be allowed. The offal is at once removed to a suitable place some distance away and the premises are clean and well kept. Slaughter house license was granted to H. Aisbett in respect of premises 53, Newbottle Street, belonging to H. E. Chadwick. License was refused to F. Goetz in respect of premises on West side of Newbottle Street.

On Friday, January 14th, I received private information that a beast that had been ailing for some time had been slaughtered in the usual way and was being sold for human consumption. Your Inspector and myself visited the premises together and found that the carcass had been cut up and some of the meat sold. A quarter of the animal had been sold to another butcher living in the country. We at once drove to the place in question as I was anxious to have the meat examined before it was cut up. However, we were too late, as the butcher had already started on his rounds and his whereabouts were not known. A portion of the lungs and the remainder of the meat were stored in one of your out houses for the night as it was too dark to make anything like a proper examination. Next morning the lungs were carefully examined and showed traces of tuberculosis. The meat was cut into in various directions, and although of poor quality it could not be said to be diseased. Had the flesh been diseased I should have advised a prosecution. With the

consent of the owner the meat was destroyed. You have no other Inspector in this connection than your Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer.

Foods and Drugs Act.—Proceedings under this act are taken by the County Council.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These are regularly and systematically inspected by your Inspector, also by your Medical Officer when occasion requires. The premises appear to be clean and well kept, and the lighting, ventilation and air space are all in accordance with your bye-laws. The byres are limewashed four times a year and at regular intervals, and are all registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Act, 1884.

The cows are of a fair average class and no infectious or other sickness has been reported during the year. You have no other Inspector in this connection than your Inspector and Medical Officer.

Common Lodging-houses.—We have three common lodging-houses in the district situate as follows: One each at High Hill Side, Grey Horse Lane, and Gas House Lane. So that the town is well provided with accommodation of this kind.

The houses are orderly and well kept, and since the erection of the one in Gas House Lane, which has accommodation for about seventy lodgers, no overcrowding of any of the houses has been complained of. The managers live on the premises and report at once to your Medical Officer when any of their lodgers are ill. In addition to the ordinary systematic inspection of the premises by your Inspector surprise visits are made from time to time—in each case with satisfactory results.

In my report dated December 5, I intimated that I had received from Dr. Hill, M.O.H. for the County, a memorandum on communicable diseases—a copy of which has been sent to the Head Masters and School Attendance Officers in the County Education area.

The Teachers and School Attendance Officers are requested to keep the M.O.H. acquainted with the names and addresses of children excluded from school on account of Non-Notifiable Diseases and Suspected Ailments with a view of preventing, if possible, any of those diseases from assuming an epidemic form.

The memorandum should prove of great assistance to the Teachers and School Attendance Officers, as it contains a clear and concise description of the symptoms of the diseases with which it deals.

Since the memorandum was sent out the following cases have been notified to your M.O.H., Houghton Council School, 5 cases of mumps and one of diphtheria—the latter was an error on the part of the parents who gave the information, as the child

was not suffering from diphtheria. St. Michael's C.E. School, two cases of chicken pox and one each of mumps and diphtheria. Lambton C.E. School, two cases of mumps. Catholic School, two cases of mumps. I also received a memorandum on plague, issued by the Local Government Board, in addition to the directions for obtaining and forwarding for bacteriological examination material from suspecting plague cases. It deals with the precautions to be taken to avoid an outbreak of the disease—the chief of which is the destruction of rats and other rodents. All rats should be exterminated as far as possible. It recommends the removal of all heaps of refuse—especially garbage affording food for rats—the removal of empty boxes or any rubbish allowing rats to hide near houses, the stopping up of rat runs and other entrance to places under floors or dwellings and outbuildings where rats may harbour. It is contended that if rats can be kept out of dwellings, danger is relatively small. The most important recommendations are summarised thus: 1st, persistently and systematically destroy all rats; 2nd, remove and obliterate their nests, burrows, and habitual haunts; and 3rd, make each dwelling as far as practicable, rat proof, and remove all known harbourage for rats in or near dwellings; 4th, at the same time do not allow waste food (whether for human beings, chickens or other animals) to accumulate in or near houses.

The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and Housing Inspection of Districts Regulations, 1910, will, I fear, be a great tax upon one inspector. The whole district will require to be systematically visited and each house carefully inspected, and a careful record kept of the work done, in order to comply with the requirements of the Act. A set of books will be required so that the information obtained during the rounds of inspection may be properly summarised at the end of the year and included in your M.O.H. Annual Report.

Spouting.—Although the spouting of the district has been much improved of late there are still houses here and there where new spouting is required, notably at Pit Row.

The owners of all such houses should be called upon to remedy this state of things, as defective or improper spouting is a serious nuisance. The down-comers too in many cases are still allowed to discharge on to the footpaths in place of into properly constructed channels, with the result that in wet weather the footpaths become very sloppy and objectionable, and in frosty weather very slippery.

Defective or choked up spouts, arising from an accumulation of dirt, grass, etc., is almost as injurious to property as no spouting at all, and owners would be well advised to have them *cleaned* out and attended to at regular intervals.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.—No further action has been taken by your Council with respect of the above Act.

The Registrar of Births still continues to give to the persons registering the births a copy of the printed circular giving full instructions as to the proper feeding, clothing and general management of infants and young children, and if carefully read and acted upon it must prove of great assistance to young and inexperienced mothers who are willing and anxious to do the best they can for their helpless infants, but who from lack of knowledge lamentably fail in their maternal duties.

School Inspection.—Medical Inspectors have been appointed for the systematic inspection of all the school children in the district.

Wood Houses, Colliery Row.—In my monthly report for May 2nd I reported on the above houses as follows:—

“ I have finished my inspection of the Wood Houses in the Long Row, Colliery Row, as requested by your Council.

“ The houses, as you know, gentlemen, are of a poor type. Many of the out-offices are in a bad condition, and the spouting generally is defective. The yard gullies from their situation and the conformation of the yards, are unable to carry off the surface water. I have, of course, full particulars of each individual house, but as they are all pretty much alike I do not consider it necessary to go into details in my present report, especially as the matter was fully discussed at the last meeting of your Council. Speaking generally, the houses are all more or less damp and out of repair, and require to be thoroughly overhauled and done up in order to make them sanitary and fit for human habitation. The owners were written to and requested either to have the houses put into a proper state of repair or to have them demolished. They at once agreed to have them properly overhauled and done up to the satisfaction of your Council. Three of the houses were taken in hand, and the remainder were to be similarly done up if they met with the approval of your Council. They were inspected by the whole Council, and subsequently by your Chairman and Dr. Hill, County M.O.H., and your Medical Officer of Health.

“ General satisfaction was expressed at the improved condition of the three houses, and it was unanimously agreed that if the back yards were cemented from pantry to pantry, and a channel made to carry off the surface water to the yard gullies, and the footpath in front of the houses properly done up, the houses would be considered quite satisfactory. An undertaking was given by the owners that this would be done, and the work is now in progress.”

The Lambton Collieries, Limited.—The colliery owners, as you know, gentlemen, are the great employers of labour in the district, and are extensive owners of cottage property as well.

They keep a large permanent staff of workmen for the purpose of keeping their property in order.

They are still busily engaged in converting the old privy ash-pits into modern ash-closets.

When the work is finished a very substantial improvement will have been effected, and a serious nuisance abated, as I look upon the old privy ashpits as a real danger to the public health. As usual, Mr. Palliser has kindly furnished me with a detailed list of the work done, but the limited space at my disposal prevents me from giving it in detail. Suffice it to say the work carried out during the year is both substantial and important, and reflects great credit upon the owners, whose agents are ever ready and willing to carry out the requirements of your officers.

The Sewage Farm.—The farm is not in such a satisfactory condition as it was eighteen months ago, owing partly to subsidence caused by colliery workings.

The beds are out of level so that the sewage in place of being properly distributed becomes stagnant, with the result that percolation is very difficult and the effluent far from satisfactory.

Filters I. and II. are much in the same condition as the above.

The sewage carriers have gone down considerably during the past few months, so that the flow is interrupted.

The carrier running diagonally across No. 12 bed requires to be relaid with new pipes and this should be done at once.

The tanks and partition walls are badly cracked, so that it is impossible to empty one tank without emptying them all—thus making it difficult for them to work properly. Until the subsidence is settled it would not be prudent to spend more money on the farm than is absolutely necessary. The beds, however, should be levelled and the ploughing attended to. As I have frequently remarked, gentlemen, you are much indebted to your able Chairman for the keen and personal interest and supervision he takes in the purification of our sewage. His technical knowledge enables him to be of immense service in this connection, and his frequent visits to the Sewage Farm are well known to and appreciated by every member of your Council.

The Factories and Workshops in the district have been inspected in the usual way. The extra convenience for females which was to have been provided last year, when the new premises were built, has not yet been carried out, as the arrangements for the new premises have fallen through. I have the promise of one of the executors, however, that an extra convenience will be added to the present premises as soon as possible. In another case the situation of the convenience is objectionable, and as the owner has proper conveniences in a yard close to the premises those conveniences will be used in future and the present one done away with. With these exceptions my rounds of inspection revealed nothing of an objectionable character. The air-space, ventilation and drainage are all in accordance with the Act.

Persons examined for certificates of fitness for employment in factories and workshops.

13 and under 14 years	14 and under 16	M.	F.	Total	Neglected
None	47	31	16	47	None

Statement of Certifying Surgeon of duties performed under Section 8 of the Workmen's Compensation Act during the year:—

Beat Hand	12
Inflammation of Synovial lining of Wrist	1
Total	13

Industry in which Employed, Mining.—The proper Forms were filled in and forwarded to the Home Office in the first week in January, 1911, in accordance with instructions.

Water Supply.—The water supply is dealt with in your Surveyor's report, which will be found at the end of my report.

A two-inch Mannessman steel water main has been laid between Pit Row and High Hill Side.

Hopper Square.—The water supply from stand pipe has been done away with, as each house is now provided with a private tap.

Ashpits and Privies.—I am unable to give the number of privy-middens, ash closets and water closets respectively in the district as I have not the information. Your Inspector tells me that the information is embodied in his report to the County Council.

I may say, however, that the old privy-middens are gradually disappearing, and are being replaced by the modern ash closet.

We have very few water closets in the district as our water supply is not sufficient to enable us to make extensive alterations in this direction.

Many of our streets are in a very unsatisfactory condition, and your Council is making arrangements to have them taken in hand as opportunity arises. I refer chiefly to the top end of Edwin Street at Galley's Corner, the top end of Henry Street, Back Elizabeth Street, Balfour Street, Stanley Street and Back Stanley Street, upper part of Back George Street, Back D'Arcy Street, Back Bowlby Street, a portion of high end of Bowlby Street, Wheler Street, Gilpin Street and Barnard Street.

The road leading from the Market Place to Edwin Street should be raised fully a foot, as in wet weather it is almost impassable. As there is considerable traffic on this road this should be attended to as early as possible.

Scavenging.—I understand it is your intention to separate the offices of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. This arrangement will enable a closer and more systematic inspection of the out-offices to be made than is possible at present.

I am frequently receiving complaints as to nuisance arising from neglected and imperfect scavenging. There is a clause in the scavenging contracts to the effect that twenty-four hours' notice must be given before your Inspector can take action. Some of the contractors apparently take advantage of this clause. The only way to circumvent this is to give notice before the out-offices become a nuisance. As long as we have privy-middens in the district we must exercise the closest supervision over the scavenging, as from a sanitary point of view the efficient scavenging of the district is of all importance, and should receive our first consideration.

One of your workmen has been deputed to examine all the ashpits in the district shortly before each meeting of the Council, and to report as to conditions found. It was resolved that the owners of all dwelling-houses through which it is now necessary to convey filth and domestic refuse be requested to provide water closets and portable ash-bins and to remove existing conveniences.

This is very right and proper, as such a condition of things is both disgusting and dangerous to the public health.

Water closets are being substituted in places where the yard space is too limited for the ordinary ash closets.

A proposal to the effect that the Council undertake the work of house scavenging—in place of letting it by contract as at present—after the termination of the present contracts was recently considered by the Council and negatived.

Fire Station.—The fire station has been improved and new appliances are about to be provided.

Allocation of District.—Your Inspector is instructed to allocate the district into convenient divisions for a house-to-house inspection.

In dealing with the consumption of water per head of the population your Surveyor estimates the population at 11,132. In my calculations I give the population at the middle of the year as required by the Local Government Board at 10,250, or nearly one thousand less than your Surveyor. As the census will be taken during the present year we will be in a position to correct any errors that may have crept into our calculations, and base our rates of mortality, etc., for the following year upon an ascertained and correct population.

Death Rate.—Although higher than for last year, the death-rate cannot be looked upon as excessive for a working population such as ours. It is, however, 2.1 higher than that recorded for

the County, as will be seen by a perusal of the table giving the Chief Vital Statistics for the Administrative County of Durham, for a copy of which I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Hill, County Medical Officer of Health, and I offer him my thanks.

Our birth-rate, I regret to say, is the lowest I think I have any record of. The falling birth-rate is a matter which is engaging the serious consideration of all Health Authorities, but as yet no satisfactory solution of the question has been forthcoming. There seems, however, to be a general agreement to the effect that there is a prevailing desire among a large section of the community to restrict the population, and thus keep down the expenses of the household and give more freedom and ease to the parents.

As I have remarked before, gentlemen, you will find much in my report with which you are already familiar. This is unavoidable, as according to my instructions I must keep the Local Government Board and County Council fully acquainted with all matters of importance brought before your Council during the year, and as it is only through your Medical Officer's Annual Report that these Authorities are made acquainted with the work done by your Council it is necessary that he should recapitulate much of what has already appeared in his monthly and quarterly reports.

I must thank you, gentlemen, for the ready and willing consideration you invariably give to my suggestions and recommendations as your Medical Officer of Health. The happy and pleasant relations that have existed between us during the long number of years I have had the honour to serve under your Council has been a great help and encouragement to me in the discharge of my important and responsible duties, and I offer you my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

D. S. PARK.

THE SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910.

Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse.—The three years' contracts for the Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse expire at the end of October next.

Generally speaking the work is performed in a better manner than was formerly the case, contractors still, however, complain of the difficulty in obtaining suitable tips.

The Council have for some time had under consideration the question of undertaking the work direct, but nothing definite has been decided.

Should the Council ultimately decide to undertake such work the question of a Refuse Destructor must be considered.

The system of weekly report sheets introduced by your Inspector, and which he insists upon being regularly delivered, show by analysis that 16,560 loads of refuse were removed during the year, being an average of 312 loads per week, as against 291 during the year 1909.

A return has been made shewing how many houses wherein it is necessary to carry house refuse through living rooms, etc. An examination of the sewers is being made together with other details affecting the question of compelling the owners in such cases to provide proper water closets and ash-bins.

Houghton Burn.—This burn has been cleaned out from Vine Place to the Station Road three times during the year, but continues to silt up rapidly between the points mentioned.

More or less continuous attention has to be given to prevent the overflowing of the banks during heavy storms.

The difficulty is caused by the movement of land in this neighbourhood.

Spouting.—Your Inspector continues to serve notices as required from time to time on owners of defective eaves, gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., and it is satisfactory to know that extensive repairs have been made when directed.

Houghton Feast.—The character of the tenants on the Council ground was agreeably above that experienced last year, the size and behaviour of the crowd was all that could be desired, indicating little or no falling off in popularity.

Successful arrangements were made in dealing with the occupiers of each living van and the disposal of refuse therefrom, with the result that but few complaints arose from Sanitary nuisance.

Disinfectants were freely supplied and a careful inspection made of the living vans, but it was not necessary to take other action for the prevention of disease.

Public Lighting.—The local gas works have recently been bought by a company in London and elsewhere.

Under the new management the works have been considerably extended and many improvements made, which permits of a much better pressure of gas being obtained throughout the district.

There is, however, a general opinion that the quality of the gas could be much improved.

Many new mains have been laid, old mains repaired, and a large number of houses are being supplied on the coin slot meter system.

The gas company operations interfere very much with the surfaces of our highways and footways, and at times cause considerable inconvenience, this however is a state of affairs that naturally prevails in the course of extensions and improvements rendered necessary by the development of any district.

The Council own the street lamps of which there are 244 in number.

The system has hitherto been on the flat flame principle and has always been more or less of an unsatisfactory character.

Many of the lanterns were old and dilapidated and would have soon required renewing at a considerable cost.

The Council has very wisely entered into an arrangement with the Gas Company to replace all the main street lanterns and burners with a new and up-to-date 60-candle power inverted incandescent burner, etc., the cost being met by contract (including maintenance and supply of gas to all lamps in the district) extending over a period of three years.

Your Surveyor has prepared an interesting chart shewing the position, character and number of every lamp in such manner as to allow of consecutive inspection from No. 1 at Quarry Row to No. 244 at Chilton Moor House.

Complaints as to the condition of any lamp where the number is stated can be the more readily attended to and located than has been possible hitherto.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Frequent inspection is made by your Medical Officer and Inspector.

The byres are generally kept in a clean and orderly condition, the lighting, ventilation and air space being all in accordance with the bye-laws.

Common Lodging-houses.—The three common lodging-houses in the district continue to be directed and controlled under satisfactory conditions.

Further improvement has been made to the house in Gas Works Lane by the introduction of a heating system to all of the sleeping apartments by means of 4-in. hot water pipes.

Meat and Slaughter-houses.—There has been no necessity for complaint as to the condition of any slaughter-house in the district, there being an apparent desire on the part of the butchers

generally to comply with all reasonable requirements of your officers.

Private Street Formation.—In consequence of the objection raised by certain owners in Outram Street, the plans, specification and estimates prepared and presented by your Surveyor for the making up of the whole of the street, were modified and represented in such form as to deal with the entrance only.

Slight objection was also made to the proposed works in east back Sunderland Street from Ironside Street to Balfour Street, but was ultimately withdrawn.

The objections being overcome the Council at once advertised for tenders and proceeded with the work.

The Contractor was somewhat slow in the performance of the contract, and after considerable difficulty was prevailed upon to turn out a reasonable job.

Final apportionments of costs have been made by the Surveyor, and notices served upon the owners for payment by your Clerk.

The owners should be gratified to know that the cost per frontage has worked out at a much cheaper rate than was estimated and set out by the Surveyor in the provisional apportionment, also to know that they will be relieved of all further responsibility in such streets by reason of the Council taking over the maintenance for the future.

The necessary plans, specifications and estimates were prepared, together with the provisional apportionments on frontagers, tenders were invited and accepted, with the result that the north end of East Back Bowlby Street from Robinson Street to the South Back of D'Arcy Street, as well as the South and North Back of Robinson Street and D'Arcy Street respectively from Back Bowlby Street to Back George Street, has been made up under the provisions of the Private Street Works Act 1892.

Here again it is interesting to note that the work has been done much cheaper than was estimated in the first instance.

There is need for this class of work to be undertaken in respect to other streets on the Ironside, Wheler, Hawdonside, and Villa Estates, together with that of North and South View at Colliery Row.

Street Works and Improvements.—Considerable money has been spent in this direction during the past year.

That portion of Station Road deemed an ancient Highway, has been reformed and channelled, the footpath and crossings have also been much improved.

It now only remains for the County Education Committee to make up the portion of land laid off for highway purposes to make a very desirable approach to the County Council Schools.

The negotiations reported as proceeding during 1909, and dealing with the North end of Bowlby Street, having been satisfactorily concluded, the Council has widened the street, erected

boundary walls, formed and channelled the roadway, removed the obstructing wood posts and laid a concrete flagging footpath with kerb, etc., in such manner as now allows of through vehicular traffic from Robinson Street to Mautland Street.

A good improvement in every respect has been completed by the laying of concrete flagging from the Britannia Inn to Station Road on the West Side of Newbottle Street.

The footpath from Hopper Street to Union Street on the east side of Newbottle Street has been reconstructed, the levels improved, the footpath retained by supporting and double kerb, and finished with concrete flagging.

From the Gas Works Lane towards the Urban District Boundary at Quarry Row the old footpath has been removed and a new and improved level formed by means of concrete kerb and flagging.

The work is completed as far as the Colliery Offices and will be continued to the boundary in due course.

Repairs have been made to the Whinstone Paving in Grey Horse Lane, and the south end of north-east back Newbottle Street, has been greatly improved by readjusting of levels and the relaying of whinstone paving throughout.

The Council having decided to take over this portion of back Newbottle Street, much more cleanly conditions prevail than has been the case hitherto.

Improved crossings have been laid in Newbottle Street, Church Street, Hall Lane, Nesham Place to Mount Pleasant, Edwin Street, George Street and Hopper Street.

Highways and Footways.—Much improvement has been made to the highways generally and throughout the district.

The Durham Main Road has been coated with steel slag from the Cut to Ironside Street and thence to the Telephone Office the road has been coated through the centre with tarred slag, the margins being tar painted and blinded with slag chippings.

Newbottle Street from the Council Offices to Johnson Crescent has also been coated with tarred slag, together with portions of Mautland Street, Robinson Street and Hopper Street.

Considerable quantities of whinstone have also been laid on the Fence Houses Road, at Chilton Moor, Redburn Row, Houghton Finds, Front Street, together with Church Street, which has been coated throughout with the like material.

Nesham Place to the Entrance of Kirklee Lane has been treated with tarred slag in the same manner as adopted for Sunderland Street.

That portion of the Market Place which may be termed as Highway from the Wheat Sheaf Inn to the Maltster's Arms, has been coated with a cheaper kind of iron slag, and finally bound together by means of a coal tar preparation applied by a spraying apparatus which works under pressure.

This work was done just prior to the Feast and was directly subjected to a very great amount of traction engine traffic, but withal has maintained a fair shape and surface.

The incline to Pit Row has been much improved and repaired.

Mautland Street, Union Street, Robinson Street, and Hopper Street have all been scarified and reformed by the steam roller, this work has given a more tidy appearance to the streets in question, at an economical cost, very little extra or new material being used for the work.

Footpaths through fields have been ashed in the usual manner and many repairs have been made with tarred material in Sunderland Street, Quarry Row, Newbottle Street, George Street, Union Street, Hopper Street, Robinson Street, Church Street, Durham Road and the Hetton Road.

Dust Prevention.—The laying of tar macadam as previously mentioned in various streets has undoubtedly lessened the quantity of dust and mud, and now that the Council has undertaken the maintenance of highway between the tram rails, the repairs by means of tarred material at positions where dwelling-houses adjoin, mitigates much nuisance by dust formerly arising from the passing of cars.

An experiment has been made by tar painting, more especially from the Telephone Office in Sunderland Street, by the Church Front, and passing the Brewery to the junction of the Durham and Hetton Roads.

The experiment has (despite the stormy season) proved successful inasmuch that the dust nuisance during fine weather has been less acute than usual, and well into the winter it could be observed that the mud was less apparent on roadways which has been so treated than was the case with roads of ordinary condition and untreated.

Development of the District.—There has again been a falling off of building operations as compared to former years.

Plans have been submitted and approved for the re-building of Messrs. Robinson Bros. Brewery, 19 dwelling houses (built), including 11 out of 38, proposed for the Hawdonside Estate, together with 6 additions and alterations to premises and 1 house and shop in Newbottle Street, being 28 plans approved for the year.

The Council's staff of workmen engaged on general work has averaged 17 per week during the year, and includes three caretakers engaged solely on the Cemetery, Sewage Farm and Hospital.

Among the three interesting charts prepared by the Surveyor and now hanging in the Council Chamber may be mentioned that which deals with the wages expenditure, shewing the development of the district in this direction for each of and for 30 years past.

Statistics kept by the Surveyor shew that 10,323 loads of material of various kinds have been handled during the year, not

including large quantities of road scrapings which have been deposited on road sides, or the removal of house refuse, etc.

The undermentioned table shews the quantities and kind of material handled :

Ashes	731
Dust and Paper	775
Flags and Kerbs	334
Mud	1,165
Sludge	312
Snow	1,184
Soil	94
Stones and Chips	2,689
Tar-paving Material	72
Water	1,065
Tar Macadam	830
Miscellaneous	1,072
<hr/>	
Total	10,323

or an average of 198 loads per week.

Sewers.—In consequence of land subsidence the gradient of many of the sewers are frequently affected, making it very difficult to keep them in satisfactory working condition.

Despite frequent attention and periodical flushing the sewer from the Villa Estate and through the Fence Houses Road cannot be said to be working as desired.

Large quantities of silt, sand, small coal and ashes are removed from time to time, and as the ground is still unsettled the question of relaying cannot for the present be entertained.

Obstructions consisting of tins, bottles, pots and sacking have been removed from N.E. Back George Street, Back Bernard Street and the Mautland Street sewers.

The Main outfall sewer laid alongside the Houghton Burn has been affected by land movement to a considerable degree, and where junctions of secondary sewers take place the burn water has entered freely, the necessary repairs having been made this sewer is now more or less working satisfactorily.

The Gas Company having repaired their mains no further complaints have been received as to smells from the sewers in Church Street.

Sewage Farm.—Steady improvement has been made with the Farm generally during the year.

Much difficulty however has and is still being experienced by reason of the general subsidence of the farm, which has seriously affected the settling tanks, filters and other permanent works, and to such an extent that it is almost impossible at times to obtain satisfactory effluents.

Many of the beds are thrown out of level to an alarming extent and works are being continued in the direction of levelling and improving the conditions.

It must, however, be expected that such work will not be of a permanent character, but may have to be adjusted every month or so.

Water Supply.—The total consumption of water for all purposes during the past year has been 71,183,000 gallons, of which the Houghton Colliery supplied 64,380,000 gallons, and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company 6,803,000 gallons, being a total daily average of 195,000 gallons.

The consumption as registered by meter for trade purposes totals 9,000,000 gallons, or a daily average of 24,000 gallons.

Street purposes including steam rolling and sewer flushing has consumed 547,000, or a daily average of 1,500 gallons.

The total consumption for domestic purposes, new buildings, trades supplied other than by meter, schools, and other buildings having automatic flushing tanks, 20 in all, 29 public-houses, 10 cowbyres, 11 butchers, and about 100 horse-keepers, together with the waste caused by burst water mains, etc., has been 61,636,000 gallons or a daily average of 168,000 gallons, or 15.09 gallons per head of population, taken at 11,132 based by your Surveyor on the fact that the rate books, to date, show that there are 2,024 inhabited houses, not including two portions of the Rural District supplied on a basis of assessment, and representing nearly 200 persons.

The figures for population are based on the assumption that the average number of persons to each house represents 5.50, being the same figures as are adopted by and for the County Police purposes.

Extensions to the water mains have been made at Colliery Row, Villa Estate, Wheler Estate and the Ironside Estate.

It will be noticed that the quantity of water consumed for all purposes, and not including that registered by meter has slightly increased per head of population.

This may be accounted for and is largely due to the damp and muddy season we have experienced, followed by the growing practice of occupiers to waste large quantities in swilling back yards, also back street footpaths and gutters.

That the practice mentioned is a growing one has been proved and demonstrated on the interesting chart prepared by your Surveyor and presented to the Council at the February meeting whereon the daily storage, delivery, and consumption relating to water supply can be grasped and traced graphically, the peculiarity being that the fluctuation of consumption for all purposes varies at times to the extent of nearly 50,000 gallons per day.

No shortage of supply has been experienced during the year, but the partial failure of the Houghton feeders has necessitated a slight increase in demand from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and Previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.			Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Number		Rate	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate				12	13		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1900	7,700	314	40.7	45	143.3	141	18.3	19	12	7	136	17.6		
1901	7,854	339	42.7	50	147.4	147	18.7	16	9	2	140	17.8		
1902	7,894	335	42.1	45	134.3	158	19.7	16	13	2	147	18.4		
1903	8,056	337	41.8	68	201.7	194	24.3	21	10	4	188	23.3		
1904	8,574	342	39.6	63	184.2	206	24.02	9	6	6	206	24.02		
1905	8,726	355	40.6	51	143.6	144	16.5	9	6	2	140	16.04		
1906	8,950	318	35.5	55	172.9	189	21.17	21	10	4	183	20.44		
1907	9,425	346	36.7	51	147.3	163	17.29	20	15	6	154	16.33		
1908	9,725	366	37.6	70	191.2	190	19.53	14	3	4	191	19.6		
1909	9,800	383	39.08	38	99.2	132	13.4	16	9	4	127	12.9		
Averages for years 1900-1909	8,670	343	39.6	53	156.5	166	19.2	16	9	4	161	18.6		
1910	10,250	299	29.1	48	160.5	194	18.9	30	14	3	183	17.8		

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,551 acres.

Total population at all ages..... 7858 } at Census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses 1833
Average number of persons per house 4

Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District : Union Workhouse.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Sunderland Infirmary, Durham Co. Lunatic Asylum.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.		Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years						Houghton	Workhouse	Houghton	Workhouse	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards					
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	19	1	6	12	...	...	...	19	...	11	...	11
Erysipelas ...	6	...	1	1	...	3	1	5	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	54	...	14	37	1	2	...	53	1	12	1	13
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	5	...	...	2	1	2	...	5	...	3	...	3
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & Scarlet Fever (combined)...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	2
Totals...	85	1	21	53	2	7	1	83	2	27	3	30

Isolation Hospital: Houghton Urban Isolation Hospital.

Total available Beds, 11. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of 'Residents' whether occurring in or beyond the District							Deaths at all ages of 'Residents' belonging to Localities whether occurring in or beyond the District				Total Deaths whether of Residents or 'Non- Residents' in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Un- der 1 year	1 and un- der 5	5 and un- der 15	15 and un- der 25	25 and un- der 65	65 and up- w'ds	Houghton	Workhouse	Asylum	Infirmary	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous croup	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever—												
Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ..	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...
Gastritis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	9	...	...	...	2	7	...	9	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary tuberculosis												
Other tubercular diseases...	5	2	2	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5	...	...	...	...	4	1	5	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	16	4	5	...	...	4	3	14	1	...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	24	8	7	...	...	7	2	22	2	...	...	4
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—												
Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1
Venereal diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diseases and acci- dents of parturition	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases ...	22	...	...	...	1	13	8	20	2	...	...	2
Accidents ...	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	...	...
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senile decay ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	17	9	8	...	...	11
Marasmus, &c. ...	14	11	3	...	...	...	...	14	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	24	15	8	...	1	...	...	24	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	31	3	3	...	...	13	12	28	1	2	...	9
All causes ...	183	48	30	2	5	54	44	165	15	2	1	30

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910. Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
ALL CAUSES—		..	..	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	..	..	..	.. 1	.. 3
Certified .....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uncertified ...		..	..	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	..	..	..	.. 1	..
COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES—																		
Small-pox																		
Chicken-pox ...																		
Scarlet Fever																		
Measles																		
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																		
Whooping Cough																		
DIARRHOEAL DISEASES—																		
Diarrhoea, all forms ...																		
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis...																		
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																		
WASTING DISEASES—																		
Premature Birth		1				1												1
Congenital Defects ...																		
Injury at Birth		1	1			1												1
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation.....																		
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		4		1		5	1		2	1	1	1						11
TUBERCULOUS DISEASES—																		
Tuberculous Meningitis																		
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																		
Other Tuberculous Diseases															1	1		2
OTHER CAUSES—																		
Erysipelas																		
Syphilis																		
Rickets												1						1
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)														3				15
Convulsions ...		3				4	4		1	1	1		1					4
Bronchitis																		
Laryngitis																		
Pneumonia ...				1		1	2		1		1		1		1	1		8
Suffocation, overlaying																		
Other Causes		1				1	1											2
		10	...	3	...	13	9	...	5	2	4	3	3	3	2	3	1	48

Births in the Year: Legitimate, 289; Illegitimate, 10. Deaths in the year of—Legitimate Infants, 45; Illegitimate Infants, 3.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 183. Population (estimated in middle of 1909), 10,250

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS for 1910, and their comparison with 1909
and the average of ten years, 1900—1909.

Estimated population (1910) ... 865,960.
 „ „ (1909) ... 854,800.

	Annual rates per 1000 population.		Mean rate for 10 years 1900- 1909.
	1910	1909	
Birth-rate	34·4	35·5	35·5
Death-rate... ..	15·1	15·7	17·5
Zymotic Death-rate	1·62	1·61	2·20
Infant mortality-rate (per 1000 births)... ..	126	124	153
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	0·007
Scarlet fever	0·08	0·09	0·14
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	0·17	0·17	0·21
Fever (enteric and continued)	0·09	0·12	0·17
Measles	0·20	0·37	0·39
Whooping Cough	0·25	0·25	0·36
Diarrhoea	0·81	0·59	0·89
Phthisis	0·88	0·91	1·05
Other tubercular diseases... ..	0·65	0·73	0·83
Acute Respiratory diseases	2·42	2·38	2·94

9th January, 1911.

T. EUSTACE HILL,
County Medical Officer of Health.

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1910, in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring.

I. Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses & Schools				
Foul Conditions ...	1	3	4	
Structural Defects ...	75	—	75	
Overcrowding ...	—	2	2	
Lodging-houses ...	3	—	3	
Dairies and Milkshops ...	—	—	—	
Cowsheds ...	—	—	—	
Bakehouses ...	—	—	—	
Slaughter-houses ...	—	—	—	
Ashpits and Privies ...	139	—	139	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	...	—	—
Waterclosets ...	23	—	23	
Defective Yard Paving ...	—	—	—	
House Drainage—				
Defective Traps ...	—	—	—	
No Disconnection from Sewers ...	—	—	—	
Other Faults ...	23	—	23	
Water Supply ...	84	—	84	Includes nuisances by burst pipes, etc.
Pigsties ...	—	—	—	
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	1	
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	
Notices to Show People at 'Feast,' including all vans, etc., on private ground known as 'The Lake ...	100	—	100	
TOTALS ...	449	5	454	

II. Water, Food and Drugs.

	Number
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	—
Samples of Water condemned as un- fit for use... ..	—
Seizure of Unwholesome Food ...	1
Convictions for exposing or selling unwholesome Food ...	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—
Samples of Food found Adulterated	—

III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.

	Number
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	15
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	27
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	—
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	—
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	—

IV. General.

Number of New Houses erected during the year	19	Total number of Water-closets in District	373
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	17	Total number of Ash-closets in District	306
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash- closets	40	Total number of Ashpit-privies in District	1208
Ashpit-privies converted into Water- closets	1	Total number of Ashpits alone ...	136
Ash-closets converted into Water- closets	—	Total number of Ash Boxes and Bins	92

JOHN W. HOLBROOK, Inspector of Nuisances.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1910.

	Annual rate per 1,000 living.										Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
	Birth Rate.	Total Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	
England and Wales ...	24·8	13·4	0·99	0·00	0·23	0·06	0·12	0·24	0·05	0·29	106
77 Great Towns ...	25·0	13·4	1·23	0·00	0·31	0·08	0·12	0·29	0·05	0·38	115
136 Smaller Towns ..	23·7	12·4	0·88	0·00	0·16	0·06	0·11	0·24	0·05	0·26	104
England and Wales less the 213 Towns	25·0	13·6	0·74	0·00	0·15	0·05	0·12	0·17	0·05	0·20	96

